

A.) AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for adjusting a position of a toilet seat, comprising:  
a first bracket and a second bracket for placement between a tank and a rear edge of a bowl of the a toilet, the first bracket disposed ~~toward~~ on a left side of the bowl and the second bracket disposed ~~toward~~ on a right side of the bowl, the first bracket and the second bracket for securing a plurality of geared shafts to the toilet;

a first geared shaft, ~~for placement~~ disposed between the first and second brackets closer to the tank, that rotates in response to a depression of a lever;

a second geared shaft, ~~for placement~~ disposed between the first and second brackets closer to the bowl, operatively engaged with the first geared shaft such that a rotation of the first geared shaft causes a rotation of the second geared shaft; and

a flange secured along the second geared shaft, the flange for attachment to a toilet seat to adjust a position thereof in response to the rotation of the second geared shaft.

2. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:  
a lever attached to one side of the first geared shaft.

3. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2, the lever further comprising an upper portion and a separate lower portion of smaller diameter for fitting within an end of the upper portion.

4. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 3, the upper portion including a screw disposed to secure the lower portion at a desired position within the upper portion.

5. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2, the lever further comprising a foot pedal.

6. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the foot pedal is disposed above a floor when the apparatus is mounted to the toilet.

7. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:  
a plate for placement on the toilet between the bowl and the tank; and  
the first and second brackets disposed on the plate for securing the first geared shaft and the second geared shaft on the toilet.

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first geared shaft and the second geared shaft have a 1:1 gear ratio.

11. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first geared shaft and the second geared shaft have a 2:1 gear ratio.

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:  
a friction bushing disposed on a bolt of the second geared shaft in contact with the first bracket, for dampening a rotation of the second geared shaft, ~~the friction bushing adjustable to provide varying amounts of friction.~~

14. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:  
a toilet seat and a toilet seat cover secured to the flange.

15. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a toilet having a bowl and a tank, the first geared shaft and the second geared shaft disposed between the tank and the bowl.

16. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a cover for enclosing the first geared shaft and the second geared shaft.

17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A toilet comprising:

a foot operated mechanism disposed between a tank and a bowl, the foot operated mechanism comprising:

a first bracket and a second bracket disposed between the tank and a rear edge of the bowl of the toilet, the first bracket disposed toward on a left side of the bowl and the second bracket disposed toward on a right side of the bowl, the first bracket and the second bracket securing:

a first geared shaft disposed between the first and second brackets closer to the tank and having a lever disposed on at least one side for providing torque to rotate the first geared shaft;

a second geared shaft disposed between the first and second brackets closer to the bowl and operatively engaged with the first geared shaft such that a rotation of the first geared shaft in a first direction causes a rotation of the second geared shaft in an opposite direction; and

a flange secured along the second geared shaft, the flange further attached to a toilet seat for adjusting a position thereof in response to a rotation of the second geared shaft.

19. (previously presented) A method for adjusting a position of a toilet seat, comprising:

depressing a foot operated lever to raise a toilet seat, the foot operated lever attached to a first geared shaft that rotates a second geared shaft, the first and second geared

shafts secured between a pair of brackets that are disposed on opposite sides of a bowl of a toilet,  
the second geared shaft having a flange attached to the toilet seat; and  
releasing the foot operated lever to lower the toilet seat.